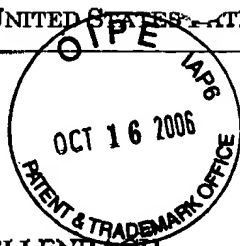


EXHIBIT A



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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JUL 10 2006

In re Application of
Scott R. Watterson, et al.
Application No. 09/641,627
Filed: August 18, 2000
Attorney Docket No.: 13914.579.1

DOCKETED
Atty Big File # 13914.579.1
By 82 On 7-14-06
Action _____
Response Due _____

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition, filed June 30, 2006, under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2) to withdraw the above-identified application from issue after payment of the issue fee.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application is withdrawn from issue for consideration of a submission under 37 CFR 1.114 (request for continued examination). See 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2).

Petitioner is advised that the issue fee paid on April 12, 2006, in the above-identified application cannot be refunded. If, however, the above-identified application is again allowed, petitioner may request that it be applied towards the issue fee required by the new Notice of Allowance.¹

Telephone inquiries relating to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (505) 272-3204.

The application is being referred to Technology Center AU 3764 for further processing of the request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

Sherry D. Brinkley
Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

¹The request to apply the issue fee to the new Notice may be satisfied by completing and returning the new Issue Fee Transmittal Form PTOL-85(b), which includes the following language thereon: "Commissioner for Patents is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above." Petitioner is advised that, whether a fee is indicated as being due or not, the Issue Fee Transmittal Form must be completed and timely submitted to avoid abandonment. Note the language in bold text on the first page of the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due (PTOL-85).